

REMARKS

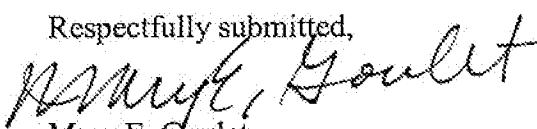
Claims 1-11, 14-24 are pending in this application. Claims 17-24, as before, are withdrawn as non-elected, without prejudice to their presentation in an appropriate manner such as in a divisional application. Claim 1 is amended. As to the amendment to Claim 1, see original claim 1 in its preamble.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, claims 1-11, 14-24 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephone or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. Goulet
Reg. No. 35,884

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson
& Cook, PC
11491 Sunset Hills Road,
Suite 340
Reston, Virginia 20190
Tel. 703-787-9400

Customer Number 30743